THIS WORK CONTAINS SCENES WHICH MAY BE DISTURBING FOR SOME READERS, SO THOSE WITH WEAK HEARTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO READ ON.

THIS STORY IS BASED ON A DREAM I HAD BEFORE.
IT IS NOT BASED ON EXAGGERATION OR FICTIONAL STORIES.

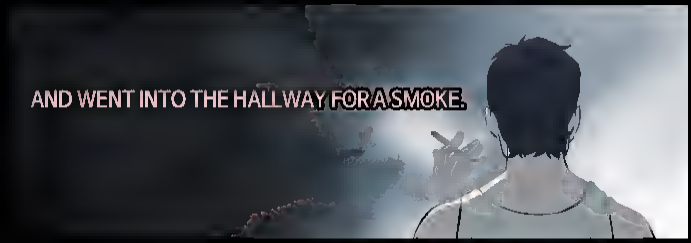
ART BY RAEHYUN SEO
STORY BY MANSUB IM

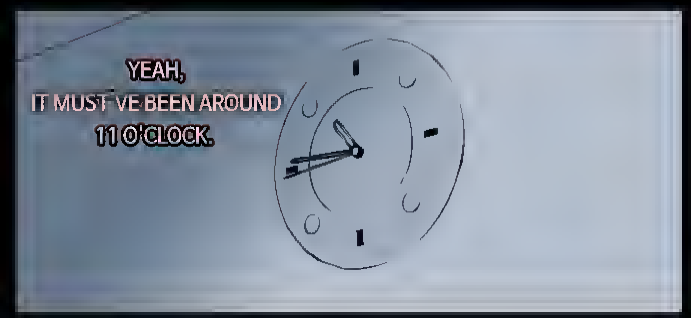
THE VAULT OF HORROR:
A COLLECTION OF NIGHTMARES

THE NIGHTMARE

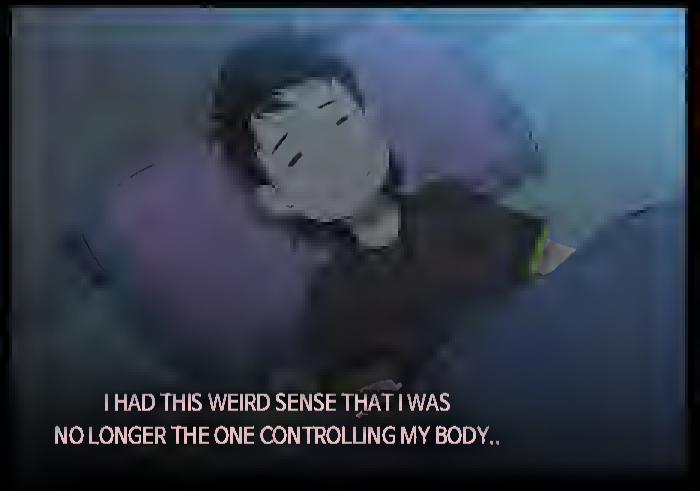
IT WAS AROUND 5 YEARS AGO

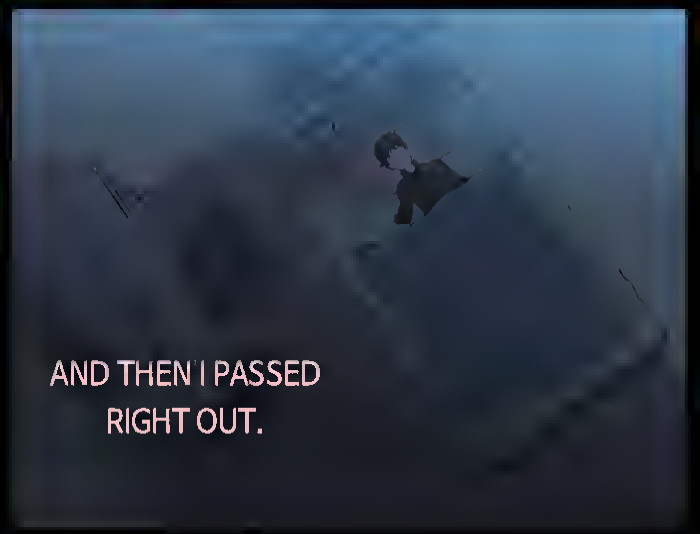
KOONG
DAD NOISILY OPENED
THE FRONT DOOR


AND WENT INTO THE HALLWAY FOR A SMOKE.


YEAH,
IT MUST'VE BEEN AROUND
11 O'CLOCK.

SUDDENLY..
I STARTED GETTING REALLY FREAKED OUT..

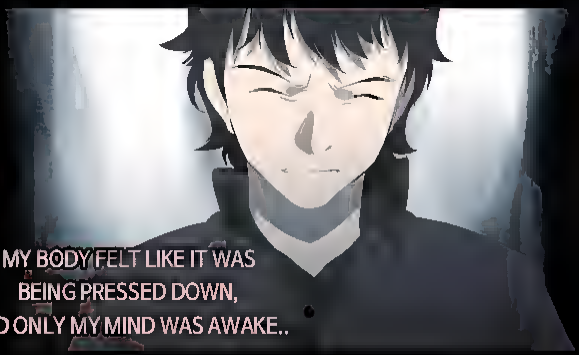

I HAD THIS WEIRD SENSE THAT I WAS
NO LONGER THE ONE CONTROLLING MY BODY..



PEOPLE WHO'VE HAD NIGHTMARES
A LOT WILL KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

..THIS KIND OF FEELING..?

A WHILE PASSED..



WHEN I FINALLY OPENED MY EYES,
I WAS IN A FOREST,
SITTING AGAINST A TREE,

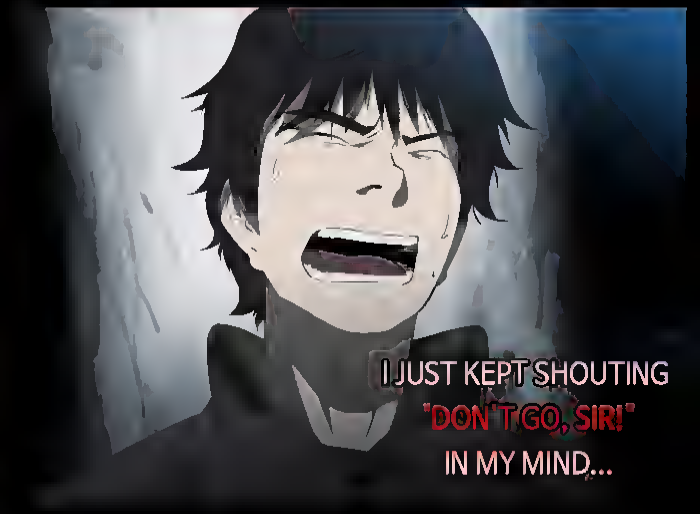
*HANBOK = TRADITIONAL KOREAN CLOTHES

TO BREAK FREE FROM THIS WEIRD HAZE

I TRIED TO CALL OUT "SIR", BUT I COULDN'T MAKE A SOUND.

THE OLD MAN JUST GOT FURTHER
AND FURTHER AWAY....

TERRIFIED OF BEING LEFT ALONE IN THIS FOREST



I MUST'VE SAID IT ABOUT 20 TIMES.

I WANTED MORE THAN ANYTHING TO GO WITH HIM..
BUT MY BODY JUST WOULDN'T DO WHAT I WANTED..

BOTH OF MY CHEEKS SUDDENLY GOT REALLY COLD..!

THOSE ICE-COLD HANDS..

STARTED RUBBING MY FACE...

MY BODY WAS FROZEN..
AND I COULDN'T TURN AROUND..

THAT TERRIBLE FEAR.
AND THAT COLDNESS TAKING
OVER MY WHOLE BODY.....

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

IT WAS AWFUL...

IT'S EMBARRASSING,
BUT IN THE DREAM I WAS SO AFRAID THAT
I ACTUALLY PASSED OUT..

AFTER 2 HOURS OF BEING
IN THAT DREAMLIKE STATE,
I OPENED MY EYES...

BUT THAT THING WAS STILL THERE.. HAH..

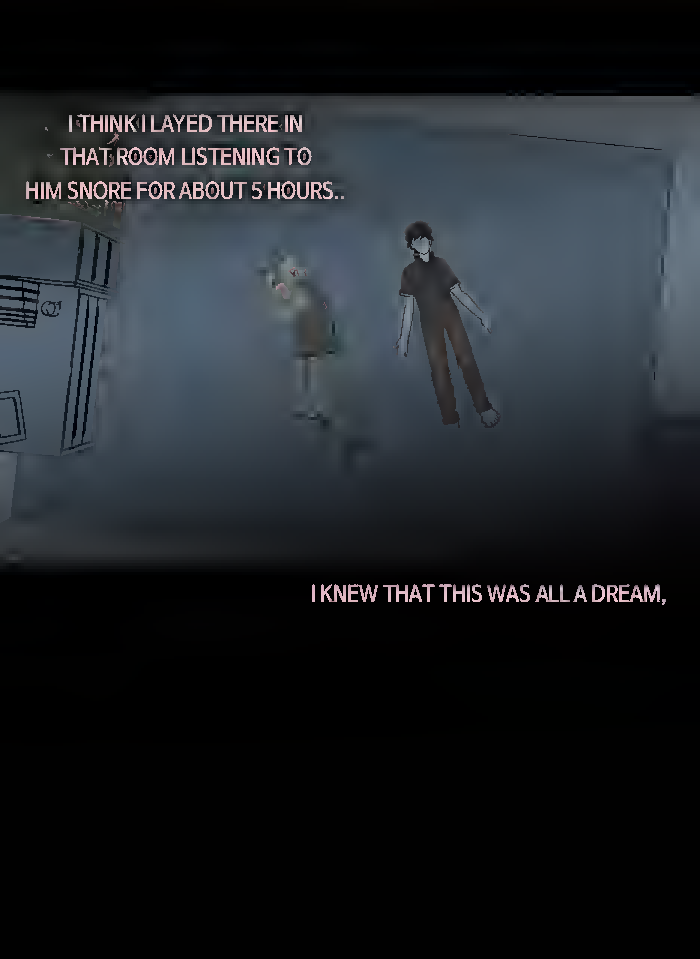
SO I FAINTED AGAIN AND FELL ASLEEP..

WHEN I WOKE UP,
I COULDN'T OPEN MY EYES FOR FEAR THAT
THE NIGHTMARE WOULD REPEAT ITSELF..
SO I FORCED MYSELF TO KEEP SLEEPING..

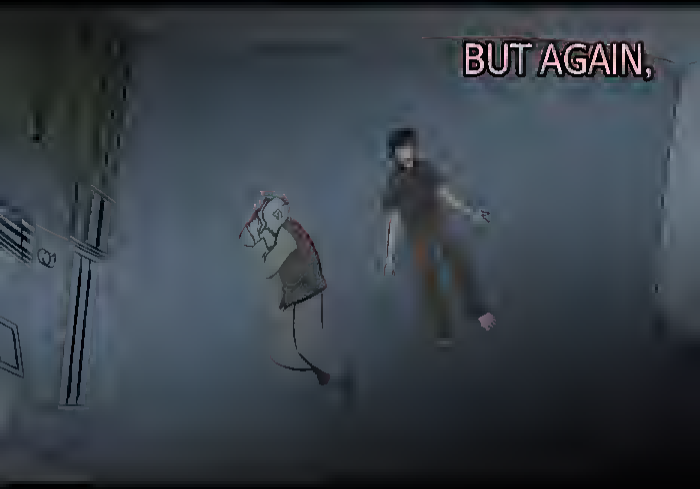
AFTER SLEEPING FOR ANOTHER 3 OR 4 HOURS,
I OPENED MY EYES..
AND THIS TIME,
I WAS LAYING IN A STRANGE ROOM..

THAT OLD MAN FROM BEFORE WAS LAYING NEXT TO ME SNORING..
I FELT SORT OF RELIEVED,
SINCE HE SEEMED LIKE HE HAD
WANTED TO HELP ME BEFORE..

I GOT UP THE NERVE TO TRY TO SAY
SOMETHING TO HIM,
BUT I STILL COULDN'T MAKE A SOUND..

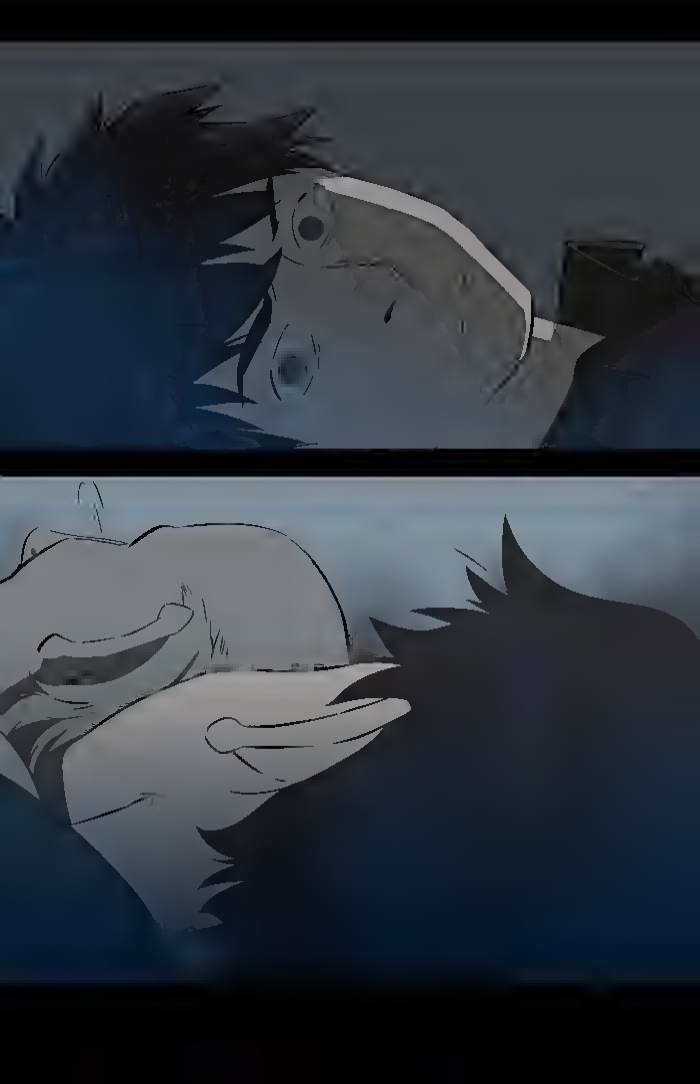

I THINK I LAYED THERE IN
THAT ROOM LISTENING TO
HIM SNORE FOR ABOUT 5 HOURS..
I KNEW THAT THIS WAS ALL A DREAM,

AND I JUST WANTED TO BREAK FREE FROM
IT AND REGAIN CONTROL OF MY BODY.



I FELT FEAR TAKING OVER MY BODY BEFORE
I HAD TIME TO DO ANYTHING,

AND THE OLD MAN SUDDENLY STOPPED SNORING.



UGH..
AND THEN I PASSED OUT AGAIN...

THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE ANY
ESCAPE FROM THIS DAMN DREAM...

AFTER SPENDING ANOTHER 2 OR 3 HOURS
LOST IN THIS DREAM, I THOUGHT THAT FINALLY

AND I PASSED OUT YET AGAIN...

FINALLY, I AWOKE IN A COLD SWEAT.

IT WAS THE LONGEST AND WORST
NIGHTMARE OF MY LIFE..

I PULLED MYSELF TOGETHER,
LOOKED FOR A SITE ABOUT DREAM ANALYSIS
AND SAT IN FRONT OF MY COMPUTER..

BUT..

I HEARD THAT FAMILIAR SOUND..

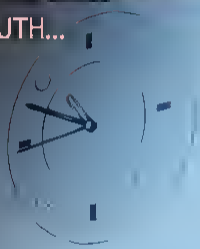
THE SOUND OF OUR FRONT DOOR CLOSING..

IN OTHER WORDS,

THE SOUND OF MY DAD COMING

BACK FROM A SMOKE

AND THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED
THE AWFUL TRUTH...



SINCE THEN,
WHENEVER I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING
TO HAVE A NIGHTMARE,
I TURN THE RADIO AND LIGHTS ON BEFORE I SLEEP.

MY MOM HATES IT WHEN I DO THAT,
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT..